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26 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MEM 36-61: Nasser and the Future of Arab Nationalism

BACKGROUND

1. This estimate was first proposed by O/NS as part of the regular program. It is in response to a requirement of the White House staff (Mr. Boston) for intelligence support on the question of how and to what extent the US might work with Nasser in an effort to deprive the Soviets of the position of being the foremost supporter of Arab nationalism. The original White House request indicated that an August completion date would be satisfactory, but the planning schedule was subsequently accelerated, as we completed this estimate on a semi-crash basis in order to achieve maximum impact and usefulness.

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SUBSTANCE

2. The estimate was coordinated with no major difficulties, and we anticipate none at the UNIB meeting. Certain minor changes may be suggested to take account of events over the weekend, notably Qassir's claim to Kuwait and Prince Badr's appointment as acting ruler in Yemen. He will brief you orally on these this evening.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

SHERMAN KENT
Chairman

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